

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 5, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~providing a cascade processing~~
electronic mail ~~distribution process~~ comprising:

~~creating an~~ receiving a first electronic mail message having a flag to identify the
first electronic mail message as a cascade-type electronic mail message; and

~~forwarding a received cascade-type~~ the received first electronic mail message to
one or more recipients in a recipients list;

receiving a second electronic mail message;

determining whether the second electronic mail message is a cascade-type
electronic mail message related to the first electronic mail message; and

when the second electronic mail message is determined as a cascade-type
electronic mail message related to the first electronic mail message, determining a
forward-to list from the one or more recipients and forwarding the second electronic mail
message to the one or more recipients on the forward-to list.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

~~creating an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the electronic mail~~
~~message as a cascade forward-type electronic mail message; and~~

~~automatically forwarding a received cascade forward-type electronic mail~~
~~message to recipients in a forwarded mail log.~~

determining one or more non-cascade-enabled recipients;

removing cascade-type identification information from the second electronic mail
message; and

forwarding the second electronic mail message to the second electronic mail
message without the cascade-type identification information to the one or more non-
cascade-enabled recipients.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a cascade electronic mail distribution process comprising:

creating a first electronic mail message, ~~where~~ having a flag identifying the first electronic mail message is as a cascade-type message;

distributing the first electronic mail message to at least one first recipient;

forwarding the first electronic mail message from the at least one first recipient to at least one second recipient; and

creating a forwarded mail log that identifies ~~the first electronic mail message and the at least one second recipient in relation with recipients of the first electronic mail message;~~

creating a second electronic mail message having a cascade forward flag identifying the second electronic message as a cascade forward type message related to the first message;

distributing the second electronic mail message to the at least one first recipient;

upon receiving the second electronic mail message by the at least one first recipient, accessing the forwarded mail log to identify the at least one second recipient that received the first electronic mail message; and

automatically forwarding the second electronic mail message to the identified at least one second recipient.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

identifying the at least one second recipient in a recipient table, where the at least one second recipient is cascade enabled.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim-4- 3 wherein said accessing step further comprises:

comparing a list of recipients of the second electronic mail message to said identified at least one second recipient; and

identifying the at least one second recipient that is not in the list of recipients.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising:
~~identifying if determining whether~~ a user accepts cascade-type electronic mail and, if not, sending an electronic message to ~~the~~ a sender of a cascade-type electronic mail message that identifies the user as not accepting cascade-type electronic mail.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for providing cascade electronic mail distribution comprising:

a first terminal for sending a first cascade-type electronic mail message and a second cascade-type electronic mail message which is related to the first cascade type electronic message through a network; and

B³ a second terminal for receiving from the first terminal via the network the first cascade-type electronic mail message, forwarding the first cascade-type electronic message to a third terminal, updating a forwarded log with an identification of ~~a~~ the third terminal, receiving the second cascade-type electronic message, determining whether the second cascade-type electronic is related to the first cascade-type message, and if related, automatically forwarding the cascade-type electronic mail message to the third terminal.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the forwarded second cascade-type electronic mail message comprises ~~an original~~ the first cascade-type electronic mail message from said first terminal and additional message information from said second terminal.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein each of the first and second the cascade-type electronic mail message comprises:

a message identification;

a recipients field;

a message type field that identifies a cascade feature of the electronic mail message; and

a message field.

- B3
11. (Currently Amended) The ~~data-structure~~ apparatus of claim 10 wherein the message identification comprises a user name and a time-stamp.
12. (Currently Amended) The ~~data-structure~~ apparatus of claim 10 wherein the message type field is a cascade enable field.
13. (Currently Amended) The ~~data-structure~~ apparatus of claim 10 wherein the message type field is a cascade-forward enable field.
14. (Currently Amended) The ~~data-structure~~ apparatus of claim 10 wherein the second cascade-type electronic mail message further comprises a previous message field.
15. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for processing electronic mail comprising:
a ~~first portion of an electronic mail processor for creating~~ configured to perform a method comprising:
receiving a first an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the first electronic mail message as a cascade-type electronic mail message; and
~~a second portion of the electronic mail processor for forwarding the~~
received first cascade-type electronic mail message to one or more recipients ~~in a recipients list;~~
receiving a second electronic mail message;
determining whether the second electronic message is a cascade-type electronic mail message related to the first electronic mail message; and
when the second electronic mail message is determined as a cascade-type electronic mail message related to the first electronic mail message, determining a forward-to list from the one or more recipients and forwarding the second electronic mail message to the one or more recipients on the forward-to list.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the electronic mail processor is configured to perform the method further comprising:

~~a third portion of the electronic mail processor for creating an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the electronic mail message as a cascade forward-type electronic mail message; and~~

~~a fourth portion of the electronic mail processor for automatically forwarding received cascade forward-type electronic mail message to recipients in a forwarded mail log;~~

determining one or more non-cascade-enabled recipients;

removing cascade-type identification information from the second electronic mail message; and

forwarding the second electronic mail message to the second electronic mail message without the cascade-type identification information to the one or more non-cascade-enabled recipients.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the second cascade forward-type electronic mail message comprises a retraction of ~~a previously sent~~ the first electronic mail message.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising software that, when executed by a general purpose computer, causes said general purpose computer to perform a method comprising:

~~creating~~ receiving an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the electronic mail message as a cascade-type electronic mail message; and

forwarding the received first cascade-type electronic mail message to one or more recipients ~~in a recipients list;~~

receiving a second electronic mail message;

determining whether the second electronic message is a cascade-type electronic mail message related to the first electronic mail message; and

when the second electronic mail message is determined as a cascade-type electronic mail message related to the first electronic mail message, determining a

forward-to list from the one or more recipients and forwarding the second electronic mail message to the one or more recipients on the forward-to list.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 18 ~~further comprising wherein the method further comprises:~~

~~creating an electronic mail message having a flag to identify the electronic mail message as a cascade forward type electronic mail message; and~~

~~automatically forwarding received cascade forward type electronic mail message to recipients in a forwarded mail log.~~

determining one or more non-cascade-enabled recipients;

removing cascade-type identification information from the second electronic mail message; and

forwarding the second electronic mail message to the second electronic mail message without the cascade-type identification information to the one or more non-cascade-enabled recipients.

20. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising a data structure of an electronic mail message comprising:

a message identification;

a recipients field;

a message type field that identifies a cascade feature of the electronic mail message; and

a message field.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium ~~data structure~~ of claim 20 wherein the message identification comprises a user name and a time-stamp.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium ~~data structure~~ of claim 20 wherein the message type field is a cascade enable field.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium data-structure of claim 20 wherein the message type field is a cascade-forward enable field.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium data-structure of claim 20 further comprises a previous message field.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the received first cascade-type electronic mail message is addressed to a first recipient and wherein the flag prompts an email program to automatically forward ~~an~~ a subsequent email message which is related to the first electronic mail message to the one or more recipients if the subsequent email message is received by the first recipient after the first recipient having forwarded forwarding the received first cascade-type electronic mail message.

B3
26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising comparing the one or more recipients to a recipient list of the second electronic mail message, wherein the ~~forwarded mail log~~ forward-to list is populated with the one or more recipients that are not on the recipient list of the second electronic mail message in the recipients list at the time of forwarding.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a cascading electronic mail distribution process, comprising:

receiving, from a sender, a first electronic mail message identified as a cascade-type message;

forwarding, in response to a prompt from a user, the first electronic mail message to at least one recipient;

receiving, from the sender, a second electronic mail message identified as a cascade-type message; and

determining whether the second electronic mail message is related to the first electronic mail message; and

automatically forwarding the second electronic mail message to the at least one recipient as a result of the first and second electronic mail messages being identified as related cascade-type messages from the same sender.

Please add the following claim:

- B3
28. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
before receiving the first electronic mail message, determining whether the first electronic mail message is a cascade-type electronic mail and determining whether an electronic mail program has enabled acceptance of cascade-type electronic mail; and
when the first electronic mail message is determined as a cascade-type electronic mail and the electronic mail program is determined as non-cascade enabled, rejecting the first electronic mail message.
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